



Socio-Economic Sustainability, Regional Development and Spatial Planning: European and International Dimensions & Perspectives

Department of Geography

University of the Aegean

Email: gkorres@geo.aegean.gr



Dear Colleagues,

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Department of Geography, University of the Aegean, organized the 2nd International Conference on ‘Socio-Economic Sustainability, Regional Development and Spatial Planning: European Dimensions & Perspectives’, in 25th – 26th October, 2024, in Mytilene, Lesvos.

This conference has been the output regarding a great deal of joint effort and enthusiasm, put in by the:

- Department of Geography, University of the Aegean
https://geography.aegean.gr/index_en.php
- Laboratory of Economic Geography, Regional Development and Territorial Planning, Department of Geography, University of the Aegean,
https://geography.aegean.gr/research/index_en.php?content=3&lab=10
- Urban Planning & Spatial Planning Laboratory, Technical University of Crete,
https://www.tuc.gr/el/index.php?id=5639&tx_tuclabspersonnel_pi3%5Blabid%5D=99
- Middle East and Turkey Geocultural Analysis Laboratory, Faculty of Turkish Studies and Modern Asian Studies, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens,
<http://www.turkmas.uoa.gr/to-tmima/episthmonika-ergastiria/ergastirio-geopolitismikon-analysewn-eyryterhs-meshs-anatolis-kai-toyrkias.html>
- International Sociological Association (ISA), Research Committee on Sociotechnics /Sociological Practice (RC26), www.ISA-RC26.org,
www.RC26ISA.WORDPRESS.com

The Conference accommodated 7 parallel sessions, presenting more than 50 papers of more than 80 contributors from all over the world; with an actual attendance and presentation rate of 85 % sharing novel academic knowledge and research and also providing a platform for productive and effective scientific dialogue.

Regarding the Conference agenda, it summarized the debate for the future and prospects of socio-economic and regional development of the European Union, under the fields of Economic-Geography, Sociology, Regional Development and Spatial Planning. The Conference identified and examined relevant key research issues, building a conceptual framework drawing on the application of socio-economic development, regional development and spatial planning in obtaining measures of growth and development, enabling a comparative analysis, both in European and international level, explaining also any related socio-economic effects. To conclude, this Conference considered both an economic and social perspective to increase the information base and derive broader conclusions about the socio-economic consequences of the economic crisis, since yet little attention has been paid to this evaluation approach.

More specifically, this Conference covered the following sections:

- ‘Policies and Practices for Sustainable Growth’
- ‘Socio-Economic Sustainable Growth and Regional Development’
- ‘Regional and Territorial Governance: Economic and Social Policies’
- ‘Social Economy Innovations and Sustainable Communities’
- ‘Inclusive Recovery and Local City Governance’
- ‘Territorial Innovation and Planning Policies: Regions and Enterprises’
- ‘Local and Global social dimensions in Sustainable Development’
- ‘Innovative Community and Social Development’

- ‘Entrepreneurship and Regional Development: Policy and Planning’
- ‘Sustainable Communities: Social Development and Education’
- Cultural Management, Local Heritage and Local Development’
- ‘New Types and Policies of Sustainable Growth: Case Studies and Applied Research’

Along this approach, a new spectrum of policies is expected to emerge, capable of overcoming the limitations and failures of past experiences, such as collusive practices between political and economic power, heavy bureaucracy, lack of accountability and obstacles of entrepreneurship. The politics behind such a new departure have to be based on a wide social consensus over the distribution of the productivity and efficiency gains deriving from new technologies and socio-economic activities, (with decision-making mechanisms that are more democratic and inclusive of different social interests, pulling out of the current crisis). For this, an environment which favours new ideas and new businesses is required, being the primary driver of a successful and sustainable regional policy, of central importance in finding solutions to socio-economic challenges, for spreading social progress, environmentally friendly technologies and innovations, worldwide.

The findings of this conference aim to be of value for researchers, policy makers and academic community alike for a better identification and understanding of the key elements and consequences of the current economic crisis and beyond.

To conclude, the Organizing Committee would like to thank all the participants of the Conference, who have contributed with their academic and research works, providing a platform for scientific dialogue, leading to knowledge creation and dissemination. The Organizing Committee would also like to thank all the Conference Committees for their enthusiastic, careful and punctual work and contribution. Last, but not least, the Organizing Committee also recognizes that this Conference would not have been taken place without the support of: a) the University of the Aegean, Department of Geography, and b) Hellenic Republic, the General Secretariat of the Aegean and Island Policy.

Offering, once more, our thanks and gratitude to all the contributors, for making this Conference possible, we strongly wish that this meeting will act as a platform for further theoretical and empirical research, rendering a creative source for further collaboration.

Kind Regards:
Prof. George M, Korres,
On Behalf of Scientific Committee

Sponsors



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